



Date: June 15, 2011

Subject: **PUBLIC NOTICE–New Hampshire Statewide Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Report for Bacteria Impaired Waters Available for Public Comment**

PUBLIC COMMENTS WILL BE ACCEPTED UNTIL 4 PM ON July 22, 2011

Dear Interested Party or Stakeholder:

The Draft Statewide Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) Study for Bacteria Impaired Waters is now available for public review and comment on the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services website at: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/tmdl/categories/publications.htm>.

High levels of bacteria can indicate the presence of waterborne disease organisms, known as pathogens, which can pose a public health risk and render a surface water unsuitable for uses such as swimming and shellfishing (in tidal waters). Surface waters include rivers, streams, lakes, ponds, wetlands and tidal waters. Examples of bacteria sources include improperly treated human waste and storm water runoff that has come in contact with feces from domesticated animals (pets, barnyard animals, etc.) and wildlife.

The purpose of a TMDL is to calculate the amount of pollutant (such as bacteria) that a surface water can assimilate without exceeding State surface water quality standards. The allowable pollutant load is then allocated to specific sources. Another important goal of the TMDL process is to promote, encourage, and inform local community action for water quality improvement and protection of public health by addressing sources of bacterial contamination. To this end this report also provides valuable information to help communities, watershed groups and stakeholders to implement the TMDL in a phased, community-based approach that will ultimately result in attainment of water quality standards

This TMDL specifically addresses 58 bacteria impaired surface waters in 40 New Hampshire communities. Estimates of the percent reduction needed to meet water quality standards for bacteria in each impaired waterbody are provided in Table 2-1. Bacteria data for the impaired segments are provided in the appendices on a watershed basis. Recommendations regarding watershed remediation activities to reduce bacteria inputs to waterbodies are provided in Chapter 6 (Implementation Plans) of the New Hampshire Statewide TMDL for Bacteria Impaired Waters Report, which has been approved by EPA on September 21, 2010. Examples of detailed implementation plans to restore impaired waters are included in appendices Q and R of that report and can be found at: <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/tmdl/categories/publications.htm>.

Comments will be accepted until 4 pm on July 22, 2011. Only written comments will be accepted. All comments must include the name of the TMDL, the date and contact information (your name, address, phone, e-mail, and organization).

Comments can be mailed to: TMDL Program
NHDES Watershed Management Bureau
29 Hazen Drive, P.O. Box 95
Concord, NH 03301
Attention Margaret P. Foss, TMDL Coordinator

or sent by email to: TMDL@des.nh.gov

For convenience, a public comment cover sheet for submitting comments is available at <http://des.nh.gov/organization/divisions/water/wmb/tmdl/documents/commentform.pdf>. Use of the cover sheet is optional.

If you have any questions about the report, please contact Margaret Foss, NHDES TMDL Coordinator at (603) 271-5448 or via email at mfoss@des.state.nh.us.